

REMARKS

Claims 18-27 were objected to for a number of informalities. In particular, "the structure" was asserted to be not clearly defined, and in the phrase "inserting labels on the nodes" the labels needed clarification what specific labels are referred to and which nodes are specifically referred to.

With the present amendments, Applicant has attempted to amend claims 18, 23, and 24 to clarify the claims. If the Examiner believes that further amendments are necessary to clarify these claims, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone Applicant's representative Theodore Magee (612-334-3222) to work out what further modifications are necessary to place the claims in form for allowance.

In the Office Action, claim 27 was objected to but was indicated as being allowable if amended to include limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. With the present Amendment, claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 27 and intervening claim 19. As such, amended claim 18 represents claim 27 rewritten in independent form. Based on the indication that claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, claim 18 and claims 20, 21, and 23-26, which depend therefrom, are in form for allowance.

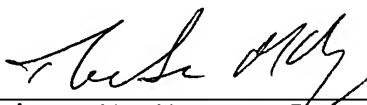
With the present amendment, claims 1-17, 19, 22, and 27 have been cancelled.

With the amendments described above and the amendments to the drawings, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims are in form for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached is a replacement drawing sheet in which reference numbers 234 and 236 have been added to FIG. 2. These reference numbers had been referred to in the specification but had been omitted from the drawings. With this Amendment, the drawings are in form for allowance.